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Section 1: Personal details

This information will be used to join together Part 1 and Part 3 of your application forms.

Name

Christie Paterson

Date of birth

Day Month Year

The next section asks you to write your statement of abuse.

Section 2: Your statement of abuse

Please refer to page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance when filling in this form.

Please make sure that whatever way you provide your statement, you include all the information Redress Scotland needs to make a decision. You can find out more on page 35 of “Help to apply”.

You may find that writing this brings up feelings or memories. If you need support you can speak to a case worker who can refer you to further help:

- **Telephone:** 0808 175 0808 (freephone)
- **International:** +44 131 297 6500
Lines are open Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 4pm (except Scottish public holidays)
- **Email:** apply@redress-scheme.scot

Providing your statement of abuse

In Part 1, you will have provided information about any relevant care settings you were abused in.

In Part 3, you need to provide a statement about your abuse. You can choose how you want to provide your statement. You can complete Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4. Or you can:

- submit a previous statement (for example, a copy of a statement given to the police)
- write your statement in another format that is better suited to you

How to complete this section

You may have been abused in one relevant care setting, or in several different ones.

For this part of the application form, please provide a statement about each care setting you were abused in.

For example, if you were abused in 3 relevant care settings, please provide 3 statements.

You can do this in any order that makes sense to you.

There are pages for 4 care settings included in this form. If you need more copies, you can:

- contact a case worker
- make a copy yourself
- print additional pages from mygov.scot/redress

Please remember:

- **there are no wrong answers - if Redress Scotland needs more or different information, your case worker will get in touch with you and let you know**
- **do not worry about your spelling**
- **use as much or as little space as you need to give your information - you can continue on additional pages if you want to**

Your statement for Care setting 1

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

In Part 1, you will have already provided information about the care settings you were abused in. By providing this information here, your case worker can join together the name of the care setting with your statement of abuse.

Q1 | What is the name or location of the relevant care setting you were abused in?

(For example, the name of the care home, or the city or region where you lived in foster care or while boarded out).

Weedingshall childrens home

Do not worry if you are uncertain about dates or time. Please provide your best estimate.

Q2 | When were you abused?

For example: a single date, an age, or an approximate time or time range.

1980-1982

You do not have to provide names, if you cannot remember or do not feel comfortable doing so. If you do provide a name it will be passed to Police Scotland.

Q3 | Who was involved in your abuse?

For example: a member of staff, a peer or someone outside the care setting.

The information you provide will be used by Redress Scotland to make a decision about your application. Redress Scotland will use the “Assessment framework” to help them do this, available on [gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot). Please be aware that it contains graphic descriptions of abuse.

Q4 | On the next page, please provide as much information as you can about:

- the abuse you experienced while living in this care setting
- what life was like for you during this time
- how the people responsible for your care and welfare failed to carry out that duty (within or beyond your care setting)

You can continue on additional pages if you need to.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.

My earliest memory in life is not a happy one. It is waking up to what I can only describe as a murder scene in my family home. I was just a child. I did not understand what was happening. I remember fear, confusion, and shock. That traumatic event was the beginning of my life in care. I was removed from my mother and father and taken away, along with my brother, into the care system.

Weedingshall Children's Home – Polmont, Falkirk

I was placed in Weedingshall Children's Home in Polmont, Falkirk. I was very young at the time. From the moment I arrived, I felt overwhelmed with terror, anxiety, and deep distress. I did not know what to expect. I had already witnessed something horrific at home, and now I was in an unfamiliar place with strangers.

On my first night, I was placed into a dormitory and locked in. That same night, I witnessed staff physically beating other children. I remember gasping in shock and fear. I realised immediately that this was not a safe place. I was trapped.

From that point onwards, my treatment was cruel and degrading. Staff members regularly shouted at me, spoke to me in an aggressive and humiliating way, and called me degrading names. They would deliberately shove and push me in corridors as they walked past. The atmosphere was hostile and intimidating at all times.

They also targeted my brother. Watching him being picked on and abused deeply distressed me. We were eventually separated into different rooms, which caused me enormous emotional pain and anxiety because he was the only familiar person I had left.

All family visits were stopped. We were completely cut off. There was no one to turn to, no way to ask for help, no safe adult. We were isolated.

Food was frequently withheld as punishment. I remember sneaking around at night to steal food because we were left hungry so often. The hunger was constant. It was used as control.

Punishments involved violent restraint. Staff would bend our arms painfully behind our backs, twist our limbs, and physically overpower us. At times, I was locked in my bedroom all day and night without any escape. The beatings were severe. I was just a child, and this was happening to me and other vulnerable children.

I remained at Weedingshall for approximately two years. Those two years were filled with fear, physical violence, neglect, hunger, and emotional humiliation.

Your statement for Care setting 2

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

In Part 1, you will have already provided information about the care settings you were abused in. By providing this information here, your case worker can join together the name of the care setting with your statement of abuse.

Q1 | What is the name or location of the relevant care setting you were abused in?

(For example, the name of the care home, or the city or region where you lived in foster care or while boarded out).

Devonvale Care Home – Stirling

Do not worry if you are uncertain about dates or time. Please provide your best estimate.

Q2 | When were you abused?

For example: a single date, an age, or an approximate time or time range.

1982-1984

You do not have to provide names, if you cannot remember or do not feel comfortable doing so. If you do provide a name it will be passed to Police Scotland.

Q3 | Who was involved in your abuse?

For example: a member of staff, a peer or someone outside the care setting.

The information you provide will be used by Redress Scotland to make a decision about your application. Redress Scotland will use the “Assessment framework” to help them do this, available on [gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot). Please be aware that it contains graphic descriptions of abuse.

Q4 | On the next page, please provide as much information as you can about:

- the abuse you experienced while living in this care setting
- what life was like for you during this time
- how the people responsible for your care and welfare failed to carry out that duty (within or beyond your care setting)

You can continue on additional pages if you need to.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.

Devonvale Care Home – Stirling

After two years, I was moved to Devonvale Care Home in Stirling, where I remained for another two years. My brother and I were placed there together initially, but from the first day we were again separated into different rooms. We were placed in secure rooms and locked in for days with no opportunity to get out.

Being unable to see my brother was mentally tormenting. I constantly worried about whether he was safe. Meanwhile, staff members mocked us and told us we were unwanted. They laughed at us. This verbal abuse encouraged other children to treat us viciously. We were deliberately played against other children for food and privileges, creating an environment of hostility and survival.

Again, family visits were not allowed. We were completely isolated. There was no protection, no advocacy, no one to tell.

We were persistently hungry. I cannot remember ever feeling properly fed. Food deprivation was routine.

The physical abuse escalated. I was tied to chairs by my arms and legs and left there for entire days. Staff would walk past me and ignore me while others laughed. I was struck across the head. Staff were extremely forceful — punching, kicking, and aggressively pushing us around.

Each morning, we were dragged out of bed and forced into cold showers. Staff would stand and watch us undress and dress while we were naked. As a young boy, this caused intense shame, humiliation, and discomfort. I felt exposed and violated.

By this stage, I felt like a human punch bag. My mental health was already severely damaged. I was living in constant fear, hyper-alert to danger, and emotionally numb at the same time.

After two years at Devonvale, we were separated again.

Your statement for Care setting 3

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

In Part 1, you will have already provided information about the care settings you were abused in. By providing this information here, your case worker can join together the name of the care setting with your statement of abuse.

Q1 | What is the name or location of the relevant care setting you were abused in?

(For example, the name of the care home, or the city or region where you lived in foster care or while boarded out).

Ballikinrain Children’s Home – Stirling

Do not worry if you are uncertain about dates or time. Please provide your best estimate.

Q2 | When were you abused?

For example: a single date, an age, or an approximate time or time range.

1984-1988

You do not have to provide names, if you cannot remember or do not feel comfortable doing so. If you do provide a name it will be passed to Police Scotland.

Q3 | Who was involved in your abuse?

For example: a member of staff, a peer or someone outside the care setting.

The information you provide will be used by Redress Scotland to make a decision about your application. Redress Scotland will use the “Assessment framework” to help them do this, available on gov.scot. Please be aware that it contains graphic descriptions of abuse.

Q4 | On the next page, please provide as much information as you can about:

- the abuse you experienced while living in this care setting
- what life was like for you during this time
- how the people responsible for your care and welfare failed to carry out that duty (within or beyond your care setting)

You can continue on additional pages if you need to.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.

Ballikinrain Children's Home – Stirling

I was then placed in Ballikinrain Children's Home in Stirling, where I remained for four years until I turned 16. This was the worst place I was ever sent. It was hell. I was devastated at being separated from my brother again. By this stage, I had lost all hope. My experiences in previous homes had already broken my sense of safety and trust.

On my first night, I was forced to fight older boys while staff sat and watched. Some staff members joined in and physically assaulted me themselves. I believe this was done to "test" me or prove myself. From that moment, I was seen as a victim and treated as one.

I was punched and kicked daily. I was mocked and called names because I had no visitors. Staff would restrain me by sitting on top of me until I could not breathe. I remember struggling for air, turning blue, and feeling like I was going to die. My ribs would be in agony for days afterwards. They bent my arms and legs backwards, causing extreme pain.

As punishment, I was forced to sit on a chair in a dark, freezing hallway all night. Bedroom doors were always locked. There was no escape. The dormitories were bare, containing only a thin mattress. It felt like prison. I could not understand why I was being treated like this.

Food was again used as a weapon. If staff did not like you, you would not eat. You were locked in your room hungry. Other children were encouraged to torment you to provoke reactions so staff would have an excuse to assault you.

There was one staff member I will never forget. He was overweight, stocky, bald, and had a moustache. He offered to take me home on weekends and said he would drive me there or to the bus stop in his blue Nissan Bluebird. I later understood his intentions.

During these car journeys, he sexually assaulted me. He forced me to do things I did not want to do. I was powerless. This happened repeatedly. I felt utterly violated and degraded. This was the point where I began to feel suicidal. I felt trapped with no escape. I was physically bruised and emotionally destroyed. My head was gone. I did not want to live anymore.

Leaving Care at 16

When I turned 16, I left care with no education, no qualifications, no emotional support, and no life skills. I was not prepared for adulthood in any way.

Over the years, I have had to re-educate myself. I had to teach myself to read and write properly and return to school later in life. I struggled deeply with addiction and became dependent on heroin in an attempt to numb the pain and block out the memories. I am now clean, but the trauma has never left me.

Impact on My Mental Health – Then and Now

The abuse I endured over approximately eight years in care has permanently affected my mental health.

As a child, I developed:

- Constant fear and hypervigilance
- Severe anxiety
- Emotional numbness
- Nightmares
- Suicidal thoughts
- Feelings of worthlessness and shame

As an adult, I now live with:

- Diagnosed PTSD
- Chronic anxiety
- Depression
- Severe trust issues
- Difficulty forming and maintaining relationships
- Emotional detachment
- Ongoing flashbacks
- Sleep disturbance
- Low self-worth

Your statement for Care setting 4

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

In Part 1, you will have already provided information about the care settings you were abused in. By providing this information here, your case worker can join together the name of the care setting with your statement of abuse.

Q1 | What is the name or location of the relevant care setting you were abused in?

(For example, the name of the care home, or the city or region where you lived in foster care or while boarded out).

Do not worry if you are uncertain about dates or time. Please provide your best estimate.

Q2 | When were you abused?
For example: a single date, an age, or an approximate time or time range.

You do not have to provide names, if you cannot remember or do not feel comfortable doing so. If you do provide a name it will be passed to Police Scotland.

Q3 | Who was involved in your abuse?
For example: a member of staff, a peer or someone outside the care setting.

The information you provide will be used by Redress Scotland to make a decision about your application. Redress Scotland will use the “Assessment framework” to help them do this, available on [gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot). Please be aware that it contains graphic descriptions of abuse.

Q4 | On the next page, please provide as much information as you can about:

- the abuse you experienced while living in this care setting
- what life was like for you during this time
- how the people responsible for your care and welfare failed to carry out that duty (within or beyond your care setting)

You can continue on additional pages if you need to.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.



Do you want help
with this section?

If you want help before sending in the form, you can:

- read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance
- contact a case worker

The next section has questions about your supporting documents.

Section 3: Supporting documents

Please provide any supporting documents you have related to your abuse in care.

You can find out more about these types of documents on page 33 of the “Help to apply” guidance.

In some cases, it may be difficult to find supporting documents. To help with this part of the application, you can:

- include supporting documents when you send this part of the form, if you already have them
- send in your form without any supporting documents – your case worker will get in touch with you and have a conversation about what you can provide

Please tick which option you have chosen:

- I am including supporting documents with my form
- I am not including supporting documents
(if you tick this, a case worker will contact you)
- I am collecting my documents and will submit them a later date

Do you want help
with this section?

If you want help before sending in the form, you can:

- read page 33 of the “Help to apply” guidance
- contact a case worker

The next section has a declaration you must sign and details about how your information is kept and shared.

Section 4: Declaration and privacy notice

In this section, you must sign your form.

For information about how Scotland's Redress Scheme will record and protect your personal information, please read the Privacy Notice for Scotland's Redress Scheme. You can find this on mygov.scot/redress.

Before you send your application you must agree to these statements:

I confirm that the details and information I have given in this application form are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I understand that I must notify Scotland's Redress Scheme of changes in my circumstances that may affect my application.

I confirm that if any of the information I gave in Part 1, Section 8 (related to previous payments and convictions) changes, I must let my case worker know.

I confirm that any documents I have provided in support of my application are genuine and any copy is a true copy of the original. I understand that if I provide a document which is not genuine, I may be subject to court proceedings.

I understand that if I give false or misleading information in support of my application or make a fraudulent application I may:

- be subject to court proceedings
- have to re-pay any money I was not entitled to

I confirm I have read and understood the Privacy Notice for Scotland's Redress Scheme which explains how the information I provide will be lawfully used and stored.

Your signature

Date

Next steps

This is the end of Part 3. You do not need to submit your forms all at once. Once you are ready, you can submit your forms by email.

Afterwards, a case worker will contact you to confirm:

- they have received your application
- if they have any follow up questions
- next steps

By email

Please submit your application and any relevant documents to:

[**apply@redress-scheme.scot**](mailto:apply@redress-scheme.scot)

If you would like to contact a case worker

Please use these details to contact a case worker:

- **Telephone:** 0808 175 0808 (freephone)
- **International:** +44 131 297 6500
Lines are open Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 4pm
(except Scottish public holidays)
- **Email:** [**apply@redress-scheme.scot**](mailto:apply@redress-scheme.scot)